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EPA'S FOREST USE CHEMICAL PROJECT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reviewing the major chemicals used for pest control in timber management. They are making a comparative risk/benefit analysis of these chemicals and of non-chemical and biological alternatives (See Pesticide Quarterly No. 8).

The final document, planned for completion in April 1981, is intended to be used as a guide by foresters and others for considering environmental impacts associated with various treatment methods in timber management.

EPA is keeping a mailing list of individuals wanting future status reports and copies of the draft document once completed.

EPA will welcome any information that might be useful in the development of the final report. Inquiries can be directed to Michael Dellarco, Special Pesticide Review Division, EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington DC 20460, telephone (703) 557-8244.

2,4-D and Dioxins

Samples of Canadian produced 2,4-D were recently found contaminated with a form of TCDD (tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin). The contaminant was identified as the 1,3,6,8 isomer of TCDD; it is many thousand times less toxic than the 2,3,7,8 form associated with 2,4,5-T.

Samples of 2,4-D are being collected from US manufactures and tested by EPA. According to the latest reports some of these samples were also found to contain dioxins. The levels of contaminants were approximately 25 ppb.

EPA intends to check other phenoxy herbicides for dioxins in the future.

RPAR UPDATE

To date, the following chemicals have been RPARED by EPA to determine if their registrations should be continued, modified, or cancelled:

Benomyl	Inorganic arsenicals
Cadmium	Lindane
Captan	Maleic hydrazide
Chloroform	PCNB
Coal Tar	Pentachlorophenol and derivatives
Creosote	Sodium fluoroacetate/1080
Diallate	Strychnine
Dimethoate	Thiophanate methyl
EBDC's (maneb, zineb, et al)	Toxaphene
Ethylene dibromide (EDB)	Trifluralin (treflan)
EPN	2,4,5-trichlorophenol
Ethylene oxide	

CAPTAN - Captan was RPARED by EPA on August 7. According to the agency, the RPAR was issued because captan may cause tumors (oncogenicity) and/or have potential to cause genetic changes (mutigenicity).

Captan is a fungicide marketed under the trade name Orthocide. This and other captan products are used on forest nurseries for soil and greenhouse bench treatments to control damping-off and root-rot diseases.

CARBON TETRACHLORIDE - On October 15, EPA issued an RPAR against carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄). The RPAR was issued because of evidence showing the chemical induces chronic liver and kidney effects in man and oncogenic effects in test animals.

Carbon tet is used as a fumigant and reduces fire hazards when used in combination with other fumigants.

LINDANE - The FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) recommends that some uses of lindane be retained. Included in the recommendation are uses for Christmas trees, forestry, and ornamentals if restricted to commercial applicators (See Pesticide Quarterly No. 8).

PRE-RPAR UPDATE

If EPA determines that a chemical meets or exceeds certain risk criteria (RPAR triggers), that chemical will be subject to a pre-RPAR review.

To date, the following chemicals are undergoing pre-RPAR review:

Cacodylic acid and salts	Piperonyl buotoxide
Carbaryl	Ronnel
Dichlorvos (DDVP)	Rotenone
Erbon	Triallate
Methanearsonates	s,s,s-tributyl phosphorotrithioate
Paraquat	Trybutyl phosphorotrithioate
	Trichlorfon

CARBARYL - A letter from EPA's Special/Pesticide Review Division to the State of New Jersey said that a full RPAR and a complete risk/benefit analysis on each use of carbaryl would not likely result in significantly changing use patterns. EPA says the available data base on carbaryl is so large that additional "new information" is not likely to result from an RPAR. EPA intends to issue their position document in the very near future.

It is very unlikely that carbaryl will be RPARED.

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A subcommittee of the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) recommends in a 3 to 2 vote that EPA should consider the following label change for carbaryl:

"Women of childbearing age should not be involved in the mixing, loading, or application of carbaryl. Exposure to carbaryl during pregnancy should be avoided".

MAINE PROPOSES RESTRICTIONS ON SEVERAL PESTICIDES

Maine's Commissioner of Agriculture and the State Board of Pesticides Control are proposing rule changes which could affect the sale and use of captan, trichlorfon, and carbaryl in the state. A final decision on the rule changes is pending the outcome of public hearings.

The State proposes to classify trichlorfon as a restricted-use pesticide and prohibit its aerial application. The State also proposes to prohibit the aerial application of captan and impose far-ranging restrictions on the use and aerial application of carbaryl.

If upheld, the new rules will affect the use of carbaryl in spruce budworm suppression projects by requiring minimum standards for equipment, radio communications, public notice, buffers, and residue limits.

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